

Applic. No.: 10/823,226
Amdt. Dated May 19, 2006
Reply to Office action of February 22, 2006

Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1, 4-16 and 18-22 remain in the application. Claims 1, 4-5, 13, and 15 have been amended. Claims 2-3 and 17 have been cancelled. Claims 19-22 have been allowed.

In item 6 on pages 4-5 of the above-identified Office action, the drawings have been objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) as not showing every feature of the invention specified in the claims.

More specifically, the Examiner has stated that the non-return valves of claim 17 must be shown or the feature(s) cancelled from the claim(s). Claim 17 has been cancelled.

In item 8 on page 5 of the above-identified Office action, claims 15-18 have been rejected as being indefinite under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

More specifically, the Examiner has stated that the term "filtration chamber" in claim 15 lacks antecedent basis. Appropriate correction has been made.

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It is accordingly believed that the claims meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Should the Examiner find any further objectionable items, counsel would appreciate a telephone call during which the matter may be resolved. The above-noted changes to the claims are provided solely for cosmetic and/or clarificatory reasons. The changes are neither provided for overcoming the prior art nor do they narrow the scope of the claims for any reason related to the statutory requirements for a patent.

In item 2 on pages 2-3 of the above-mentioned Office action, claims 1-2 and 13-14 have been rejected as being anticipated by Davis (US 4,911,839) under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

The rejection has been noted and claims 1 and 13 have been amended in an effort to even more clearly define the invention of the instant application. More specifically, the features of claims 2-3 have been added to claims 1 and 13, respectively. Since claim 3 contains allowable subject matter as indicated in item 9 on page 6 of the Office action, claims 1 and 13 are now believed to be allowable. Since claim 14 is dependent on claim 13, it is believed to be allowable as well.

In item 3 on page 3 of the above-mentioned Office action, claims 15-16 and 18 have been rejected as being anticipated by

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Aigeldinger et al. (US 5,558,773) under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Claim 15 has been amended to be dependent on claim 13. Since claim 13 is believed to be allowable as discussed above and claims 15-16 and 18 are ultimately dependent on claim 13, they are believed to be allowable as well.

In item 5 on page 4 of the above-mentioned Office action, claim 17 has been rejected as being unpatentable over Aigeldinger et al. in view of Gwilliam (US 3,276,594) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Claim 17 has been cancelled.

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's statement in item 9 on page 6 of the above-mentioned Office action that claims 3-12 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The feature of claim 3 has been added to claims 1 and 13, respectively. Since claims 4-12 are ultimately dependent on claim 1, they are believed to be allowable in dependent form.

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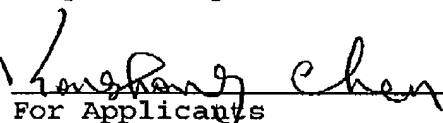
Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's statement in item 10 on page 6 of the above-mentioned Office action that claims 19-22 are allowed.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 4-16 and 18 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made. Please charge any fees which might be due with respect to 37 CFR Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner Greenberg Stemer LLP, No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,


For Applicants

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